

2006/19. Review of the country programme approval process

The Executive Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Decides that:

1. In order to decrease the time frame for the country programme approval process and to create more scope for synchronization with the length of national programme cycles, draft country programme documents will continue to be presented for discussion at the annual session of the Executive Board, as per existing practice. The revised country programme documents will then be posted on the website of the organization no later than six weeks after the discussion, and a hard copy of the revised documents will be provided, upon request, to Board members by the secretariat. The country programmes will then be approved by the Board at the second regular session, on a no-objection basis without presentation or discussion, unless at least five members have informed the secretariat in writing before the session of their wish to bring a particular country programme before the Executive Board. Approval of country programmes for which revised country programme documents were not posted within six weeks will be postponed to the first regular session of the Executive Board the following year;

2. The submission and approval of country programmes by the UNICEF Executive Board will continue to follow the guidelines for length and content adopted in its decision 2002/4 (paragraph 1 (b)). Continued efforts should be made to improve results-based planning and management, and to strengthen the alignment of country programmes with national strategies as well as to strengthen their alignment with the approved medium-term strategic plan. The UNICEF country programme documents should clearly contribute to and derive from the national plan and strategies as well as the outcomes established in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), in countries where the UNDAF exists.

*Second regular session
8 September 2006*
